

## West Running Brook Middle School

1 West Running Brook Lane

Derry, New Hampshire 03038

603.432.1250

Justin Krieger, Principal  
Laurie Cloutier, Assistant Principal  
Mitch Edwards, Assistant Principal  
Pauline Beland, Secretary  
Dawna Sanville, Secretary  
Phil Baroody, Counselor  
Cheri Haidaichuk, Counselor  
Caitlin Almon, Counselor  
Sheryl O'Connor, Athletic Director  
Kerry Soucy, Special Education Facilitator

Jennifer Ciarla, 6-1 Team Leader  
Barbara Dupont, 6-2 Team Leader  
Misty Crompton, 7-3 Team Leader  
Stephen Campo, 7-4 Team Leader  
Kelly Rickenbach, 8-5 Team Leader  
Patty Thomas, 8-6 Team Leader  
Blake Leister, UA Team Leader  
John Michalsky, Head Custodian  
Kristina Lubelczyk, Kitchen Manager  
Laura Walker, Nurse

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### FRIDAY FOCUS

The start of our school year was filled with heat. For many years, I have observed the complex impact on families and students that results from starting the school year in August and have weighed the perceived benefits and drawbacks of a September start date. Last year, Governor Sununu encouraged New Hampshire school districts to consider a September start. A vast majority of them continued to begin in August this fall. This year, the Governor signed an executive order to establish a commission to formally investigate the practice. You can read about the charge of the commission, [here](#). When you stop into the building, I would be curious to hear your take on the impact an August or September start date may have on your family.

The start of this school year was both professional and personal for me. Our oldest son started kindergarten. Watching him enter his school building for the first time as a student, I (re)learned three things while also thinking of my middle school students at WRB. First, as human beings, we are programmed to want to learn. He was eager to go to school at this early stage. (Are middle school students eager to go to school? If not, what happened?) Second, nervousness can be a powerful emotion to push through as it builds resiliency. He was indeed nervous but not paralyzed. (Do we allow the appropriate space for middle schoolers to work through their nervousness?) Lastly, the next 2-3 years will be critical in terms of him learning how to read. This last thought honed my focus on the students at WRB. There is a transition that should occur for all children, in that they move from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*. At the middle level, the act of reading to learn opens the world to children. This is not hyperbole. We are making a concerted effort to put text in front of students this year at an instructional and independent level. The best thing you can do for your child(ren) is the same. Let us know how we can help you put text in front of your child(ren) outside of school.

Be well, Justin Krieger - Principal

### [A Few Upcoming Dates and Information of Interest](#)

- [NWEA Assessment Begins: Monday \(9.10.18\)](#) - By grade level, students will begin their internal math and reading assessments to determine what they know and what they are ready to learn next. This data is useful to students, parents, guardians, and teachers.
- [Parent and Guardian Volunteers](#) - In the interest of student safety, the DCSD School Board has revised their policy pertaining to volunteers. You can find an updated policy, [here](#). Essentially, to serve as a designated volunteer in any capacity, you will need to undergo a criminal background check. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Toby Kaboub (432.1210) at the SAU to schedule a time to begin this process, as it takes 6-8 weeks to complete. To save you time, you may complete this [form](#) prior to your appointment. At WRB, we welcome your time and expertise and hope that in getting this message out early in the school year we can continue to generate a significant amount of volunteer support.
- [School Pictures: Friday \(9.14.18\)](#) - We are working with the picture company to get ordering packets to you this week.
- [1st PTSA Meeting: Wednesday \(9.19.18\) 7:00 PM](#)
- [WRB Open House: Thursday \(9.20.18\) 6:00-7:00 PM](#) - This informal evening is dedicated to creating a time and space for families to interact with school staff. It is always good to connect. For more detailed information and a schedule, see this [invite](#).
- [Walk With West: Wednesday \(9.26.18\) 2:15 PM](#) - Organized by our Kids Care Club, this fundraiser is open to WRB students and families to generate funds to give back to the community. It is an awesome event to walk through our community as a unified team in support of others. Look for more information to come.